

MONDAY, MAY 7, 1900.

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Sir Frank Swettenham.

Sir Frank Swettenham, Resident General of the Federated Malay States, who is proceeding to Weihaiwei, at the request of the Imperial Government, with instructions to report upon the question of the institution of a civil administration in that New British dependency, is coming up to Hongkong on board the *Terrible*.

Rainfall.

The following table gives the Rainfall at the Observatory to the end of April, with the means and extremes for 15 years.

	1900	1884-95
January	77 1.65	8.43 0.00
February	2.64 2.09	7.55 0.25
March	3.02 2.39	10.43 0.17
April	2.78 5.98	14.89 1.06

The year's rainfall to the end of April amounts to 9.21 inches, the 15 years' average being 12.61 inches.

The Dallas Company.

Mr Henry Dallas and his talented company have returned from Manila today, after a month's successful sojourn in the Philippines. They have arrived sooner than was anticipated, and Mr Dallas, in order to make the most of a short season has decided to open to-morrow, Tuesday (not Thursday as originally announced) with the great musical piece in which he scored such an undoubted triumph here quite recently, 'A Runaway Girl,' which will be played for positively this night only. On Wednesday Mr Dallas is giving up the theatre for the smoking concert to the crew of the *Terrible*, but he will re-open again on Thursday with 'The Grisha,' as originally announced, but we believe Mr Dallas intends producing specially for Hongkong an entirely new musical play.

An Impudent Thief.

On Friday a Chinaman went to the Government Civil Hospital, still ill, and was sent by the foreman, blacksmith to do some work on the roof, procured a bamboo ladder from the boy of Number 11 ward, and proceeded to the roof. After some little time it occurred to the boy that only a month previously the roof had been thoroughly repaired and the Chinaman's movements were very suspicious he had a 'looksee.' He found his suspicious to be correct for the man instead of repairing the roof was busy undoing it. He had cut two large strips of lead off the verandah and the roof. They immediately seized the thief and handed him over to the Indian Constable in charge of the Hospital doorway. Mr Gumpertz sent the man to prison for a month. The impudence of the thief is almost as great as that of the man who attempted to steal the Magistrate's clock while the magistrate was sitting.

Alleged Outrage on a Lady.

It is rumoured that, early yesterday morning, an extraordinary outrage was committed on a young lady while walking along the path leading from Genoa to the Public Gardens. The story is that she was set upon by a couple of Chinamen at a lonely turn of the road. One man seized her by the hand while the other raised violent blows upon her head, blackened both her eyes, cut one of her lips and rendered her unconscious. They stole money and jewellery from her to the value of \$400. The girl, it is said, was found at about 6.30 by some people going to the Roman Catholic Cathedral still unconscious. She was taken home where she regained consciousness but was unable to give any information as to the occurrence. The matter has not been reported to the police and in the circumstances we are inclined to think that the story is either much exaggerated or that there is no truth in it at all.

Fire on the 'Strathgyle.'

Kobe papers report that on 27th April a fire was discovered on board the C. and O. steamship *Strathgyle*, which arrived in the harbour on the previous day from San Diego. The fire, it appears, originated in the hold of the ship, where a large quantity of cotton was stored. As soon as the outbreak was discovered, steam was turned upon the burning cargo, but without effect, and it was not until some hours afterwards, when a quantity of water had been poured upon it, that the fire was extinguished. During the morning several of the crew, although advised to the contrary, went into the hold to discover the extent of the damage, when they were overcome by the heat. The Chief Officer of the ship went to the assistance of his comrades, and while doing so was himself partially overcome by the heat. While being hauled on deck the rope in which he was placed gave way, and the poor fellow fell into the hold, sustaining concussion of the brain besides other injuries. After receiving medical attendance on board, he was removed to the hospital in an extremely critical condition.

In the Treatment of Consumption and all wasting diseases, or where, from over-work, either mental or physical, the system is run down.

Stearns' Wine of Cod Liver Oil should be taken. The greatest of restoratives, containing absolutely pure and essential and potent constituents of COD LIVER OIL. Quite pleasant to the taste. Sold by all Chemists, Wholesalers and Retail from A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Hong Kong.

TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

CHINA MAIL'S SPECIAL SERVICE.

THE WAR.

THE BOER PRISONERS.

PROPOSED PRISON AT CEYLON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Colombo, May 5.

The Times of Ceylon says that it is proposed to despatch the Boer prisoners to Ceylon, where barracks will be erected on a site suggested on the plains beyond Nuwaraeliya, the terminus of the railway line.

The climate is excellent, and being far removed from the large centres of population, the district is most suitable for the purpose. It is probable that a British regiment from India will be sent to guard the prisoners.

A large sum will be necessary to provide the accommodation, but no serious objections to the scheme are entertained locally.

SEVERE FIGHTING IN THE FREE STATE.

MOUNTED DIVISION CROSS THE VIT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, May 7, 1.25 a.m.

There has been some stiff fighting at the River Vut, the brunt of which has been borne by the Mounted Division under Colonel Ian Hamilton with Colonel Hutton and Bailey as Brigadiers. The enemy was strongly entrenched on the river banks and strenuously defended the passage for three hours.

Colonel Hutton by a brilliant movement outflanked the enemy and crossed the river under a severe fire. Colonel Ian Hamilton had two days' severe fighting near Vut, the Lancashire inflicting very heavy loss on the enemy.

The British force is now converging on Winburg.

THE ADVANCE ON MAFERING.

The divisions in command of General Sir Archibald Hunter and General Barton were severe fighting north of the Vaal River, but the force carried the ridges in a magnificent manner.

REUTERS'S SERVICE.

London, 4th May.

THE WAR.

The British have captured Brandfort, surprising the Boers who retired to the north-east. Commandant Delarey commanded the Boers.

The Boers have evacuated Thabank Hill, and are taking north.

It is expected that General Brabant will join General Bullard at Thabank Hill immediately.

RESULT OF ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS.

1. Winchester. 2. Inquisitive. 3. Vain Duchess.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF JAPAN IN ENGLAND.

The Princess Kotoshio and Twakura visited the Queen yesterday and slept at Windsor Castle.

THE 'KOW SHING' CASE.

Mr Broderick stated in the House that the *Kow Shing* case will be submitted to the arbitration of an eminent foreign jurist.

THE CHINESE REFORMERS.

There is no reason to suppose that the Chinese Government contemplates the execution of the reformers mentioned in the *China Herald* 7th April.

THE COMMANDANT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

General Otis has been relieved of the command in the Philippines. General MacArthur succeeds to the Command.

THE WAR.

General Hamilton has advanced to Weihaiwei and was engaged with the enemy throughout the march. Weihaiwei is not mentioned in the report.

Lord Roberts reports that General Hunter has carried the passage of the Vaal at Windhoek unopposed. This is the first official intimation that General Hunter had started to relieve Mafeking.

More courage every Britisher can boast. The day of fighting him-to-day is ours. But now with unbroken joy, let us to the task.

A man of proved ability at last. And his four hundred. Let the red wine flow.

The city with heart-felt welcoming. And when you cheer Jack's courage. And when you cheer Jack's courage. And when you cheer Jack's courage.

Just add a tiger for 'The Man with Brains.'

JULIEN DALZIEL.

VERSES AT THE DOOR. At Kapiroko. Iala de Cuba. Taiyung. Progress, U.S.S. Monterey, Zaire, Shun, H.M.S. Orlando, Hingung.

Correspondent. Don Juan de Austria. Independent, Queen Adelaide. Aberdeen. Howick Hall.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Legislative Council met this afternoon. H. E. Major-General Gascogne, C.M.G., Acting Governor, presided. There were present:—Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Secretary; Hon. W. M. Ombay, Attorney General; Hon. R. B. Goodman, Director of Public Works; Hon. A. M. Thomson, Colonial Treasurer; Hon. H. C. Nicolls; Hon. A. W. Brown, Inspector of Schools; Hon. C. P. Chatter, C.M.G.; J. J. Kewick; Hon. K. H. Smith; R. M. Gray; and Mr. H. F. Johnston, Acting Clerk of Council.

NEW MEMBERS.

Messrs R. M. Gray and H. Smith, the newly appointed members of Council, took the oath of office.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr Goodman moved the first reading of a Bill entitled 'An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 10 of 1892.'

Mr Goodman moved the first reading of a Bill entitled 'An Ordinance to further amend the Regulation of Chinese Orphanages, 1898.'

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H.M.S. 'TERRIBLE'.

RECEPTION AT SINGAPORE.

H.M.S. *Terrible* was received with great enthusiasm at Singapore. On 29th April, the Reception Committee and their supporters entertained at lunch at the Singapore Club, Captain Percy Scott, C.B., and the officers of the cruiser. The Chairman, Hon. W. R. Collyer, Attorney General, in proposing the toast of the day, said: 'It is with the greatest pleasure that I join to propose the toast of Capt. Scott and the officers of H.M.S. *Terrible*. I need not make a long speech, as it would be impossible to give a detailed account of the services they have rendered; we have read them and seen them constantly mentioned in the papers and we know them, and those who have children have told them of the doings of the sailors and so they will be handed down from generation to generation. The name of H.M.S. *Terrible* is a famous and I may say no ship will have a record such as the *Terrible*, and no ship will have done so much good for Queen and country. The names of H.M.S. *Terrible* and H.M.S. *Powerful* (though not here now) will always be remembered in connection with the battles on the Tago and above all with the crowning success in the relief of Ladysmith. It is a great pleasure to entertain men who have done so much for Queen and country. Captain Scott responded as follows:—Mr Chairman and gentlemen and members of the Singapore Club,—On behalf of the officers of H.M.S. *Terrible* I have to thank you for the magnificent compliment made and the charming way in which you have drunk our health. Our reception here has astonished us, and the entertainment you have given, and the men of the ship are more than ever proud of it, and it is very much appreciated. We originally were ordered to the Cape. We were diverted to the Tago, and we came down to the Tago, and they had brought down heavy siege guns from Pretoria. In order to discharge these heavy guns it occurred to the navy that it would be advantageous to make use of the ship's guns. So we made arrangements for our ship's